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PF NEWYORK NY 11

PROFESSOR JOSUA LEDERBERG, MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD UNIVERSITY DEPT OF GENETICS PALO ALTO CALIF
ON CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE OF RANKING CATHOLICS AM URGED TO SEEK
ENDORSEMENTS OTHER NOBEL LAUREATES TO STATEMENT DOR PERSONAL
TRANSMITTAL TO POPE PAUL NOT LATER THAN MARCH 23 BEFORE NEXT
MEETING HIS COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND CONCEPTION CONTROL.
AM USUALLY MOST RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY EFFORT TO MUSTER
NOBEL LAUREATES AS GROUP SUPPORTING ANY VIEWPOINT. HOWEVER
THIS MATTER IS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE AND CONCERN THAT I DO NOT
HESITATE TO CALL ON YOU NOW. DR. PETER MEDAWAR CIRCULATING
SAME STATEMENT TO EUROPEAN NOBELISTS. TEXT OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS.
URGENTLY REQUEST YOUR COLLECT WIRE APPROVAL. PLEASE REPLY EVEN
IF LATE. QUOTE WE, THE UNDERSIGNED NOBEL LAUREATES, ARE DEEPLY

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1270 (1-51)

CONSCIOUS OF THE IMMENSE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY RESTING
ON THE SHOULDERS OF YOUR HOLINESS IN ACTING ON THE INFORMATION
AND ANALYSES OF THE COMMISSION YOU HAVE DESIGNATED TO STUDY
THE SUBJECT OF POPULATION AND FERTILITY CONTROL. WE EXTEND
OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHIES TO YOUR HOLINESS AND TO THE COMMISSION
~~IN THIS TRYING PERIOD LEADING TO DECISIONS THAT WILL AFFECT~~
~~THE COURSE OF HISTORY, FOR ALL TIME AND FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS,~~
~~REGARDLESS OF THEIR RELIGIONS. SENSITIVE AS ALL THOUGHTFUL~~
~~MEN AND WOMEN MUST BE TO THE ETHICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH MARRIAGE~~
~~AND THE FAMILY SHOULD BE VIEWED, WE ARE INCREASINGLY IMPRESSED~~
~~BY THE EMERGING CONSENSUS ABOUT THE GOALS OF FAMILY PLANNING~~
~~-- NAMELY, TO ASSURE EACH NEW INFANT THE BIRTHRIGHT OF A WARM~~
~~WELCOME IN A LOVING HOME, WITH A HEALTHY OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION,~~
~~EMPLOYMENT AND FULFILLMENT THE PRESSURES OF POPULATION GROWTH~~

1270 (1-51)

NOW ADD A NEW MORAL IMPERATIVE TO THE THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION
OF FAMILY SIZE. IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAVITY OF THE ISSUE
AND THE INEVITABLE WORLDWIDE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTION ON
IT, WE WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOUR HOLINESS THE HOPE THAT ANY DECISIONS
WILL BE THE FRUIT OF THE MOST PROFOUND AND SEARCHING STUDIES.
TO THIS END, WE WISH TO OFFER YOUR HOLINESS THE BEST OF OUR
PROFESSIONAL CAPACITIES AND ENDEAVORS. UNQUOTE END STATEMENT
E L TATUM ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE NEW YORK